

Date: Mon, 9 Aug 93 04:30:13 PDT
From: Ham-Policy Mailing List and Newsgroup <ham-policy@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Ham-Policy-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Ham-Policy@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Ham-Policy Digest V93 #289
To: Ham-Policy

Ham-Policy Digest Mon, 9 Aug 93 Volume 93 : Issue 289

Today's Topics:

CODE/NO-CODE/CB and technical competence
CW: Some comments
NMN
SOS

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Ham-Policy@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Ham-Policy-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Ham-Policy Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/ham-policy".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Sun, 8 Aug 1993 15:25:18 GMT
From: era!era.com!mark@uunet.uu.net
Subject: CODE/NO-CODE/CB and technical competence
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

On rec.radio.amateur.policy, kevin.jessup <kevin.jessup@mixcom.mixcom.com> posts:

>
> Despite these supposed goals, it appears that more debate is given to
> the CODE/NO CODE issue than any other topic. While code IS still in
> use today (largely by the amateur radio community) I would consider it
> more of a historic curiosity than a method of "advancing the radio
> art".
> ...
> My point is that time spent studying code could be better spent
> studying more theory and state-of-the-art radio communications.
> I am NOT saying that amateur radio operators should have the
> knowledge of an electrical engineer or engineering technician.
> ...
> I fail to see how this fascination with F.B. Morse accomplishes

> that. ... If you want to work CW, fine.

Something dawned on me while reading Kevin's post:

Five days a week, I work with computers. I build 'em, program 'em, fine tune 'em and once in awhile I write a report on one. But when I walk out the door at 5:30, the furthest thing from my mind is using my computer at home for anything but writing a letter to my Aunt Millie. At the same time I see all of these PC hobbyists who love to spend their evenings writing silly little programs or rearranging the directories on their hard disks, something I wouldn't even remotely consider recreation, except possibly at gunpoint. Most of these folks don't know some of the nit-picky technical details from their left elbow but still enjoy exploring some of the simpler things, however technologically mundane they may seem to me.

Now, you ask, what does this have to do with Amateur Radio? Well, it's kind of funny... I took up this hobby just about a year ago as a no-coder and shortly thereafter passed 1A only to discover that I really enjoy working CW. Let's call a spade a spade and realize that in the big picture, CW is pretty much a dinosaur. It's awfully inefficient compared to a number of other modes, but for some reason I enjoy it. I'm starting to learn things about RF circuits, and while I'll probably be busting my buttons when I design and build my first CW QRP transmitter, but I'm fairly sure that folks who design and build spread-spectrum gear would yawn over it.

That sounds real familiar, but the shoe's on the other foot. I'm real glad I don't have to pass the crabbing exam if I want a license to catch trout. :-)

- Mark

```
.....
: Mark A. Feit          KD4TAJ : Internet: mark@era.com      :
: Engineering Research Associates : USENET: ...!uunet!era!mark :
.....
"Reality is a crutch for those who can't handle Amateur Radio."
```

Date: 6 Aug 93 16:18:05 GMT
From: ogicse!uwm.edu!math.ohio-state.edu!cs.utexas.edu!gerald@cc.utexas.edu!
doc.cc.utexas.edu!not-for-mail@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: CW: Some comments
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

Greetings:

As a CW fan I found the following posts to the "Boatanchors" mailing list to be rather interesting. I won't comment further, as I'm sure that this article will draw its share of flamage, as is customary in this newsgroup.

73,

Date: Fri, 6 Aug 93 13:59:05 PDT
From: Tainted with Defilement <brewer@anarky.enet.dec.com>
Subject: NMN
To: boatanchors@anarky.enet.dec.com

I heard the CW sent on a syndicated radio broadcast (I am thinking charles kurault, but I know that is wrong). Sounded like hand-key transmission. What a pleasure to hear when correctly done.

Keyboard and keyer generated CW, like modern trasceivers do everything better than their predescissors the hand key and bug and boatanchors do. They are, however, soul-less and sterile.
IMHO.
/john

--
David Milner | ***** | Amateur Radio Callsign N 5 R U L (R/R # 3)
(GeNie) D.MILNER | * Moo! * | (Internet) aggedor@ccwf.cc.utexas.edu
Austin, Tx. U.S.A. | ***** | I know who I am, and I will *NEVER* go back!
** Illegitimus Non Carborundom Est! (Don't let the bastards get you down!) **

Date: Fri, 6 Aug 93 15:32:37 -0400
From: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu (R. D. Keys)
Subject: SOS
To: garhow@hpubmaa.esr.HP.COM, rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu,

Relative to the cessation of MF CW operations by the Coast Guard, this past 1 August, 1993... I was there, by special permission of the Chief Radio Operator, CAMSLANT NMN, Chesapeake, VA, for the closing of the watch/last broadcast by the station.

It was indeed sad, to see a 92 year old MF tradition go by the wayside.

Interesting sidelight, tho...., in conversation with operators there, I asked directly whether or not, when conditions were marginal, if CW was worse/as-good-as/better than digital modes for reliable communication. The unofficial word that I got from operators, based upon their experiences over the years, was that CW was usually better. There were times when band conditions on HF were marginal for ship to shore communication, out at sea, and voice or digital modes simply failed. Digital modes were stuck in endless packet resends that took as long as 30 minutes to send a message that on CW could have gone out in a few seconds.

The changeover is as much due to economics/manpower influences as to the greatness of the satellite/digital systems. What the services and the maritime community (shippers) are trying to do is to fully automate the ships at sea. The problem with that is that the equipment is complex and the system is complex. If conditions are marginal, a trained operator is still the best option, and automations are not.

I missed the NPR program.... darn.... the tape that was supposedly going to be played as background music during the show was my tape of the final MF CW broadcast, taken directly from a reserve receiver at the 500 khz console at NMN.

It is indeed the end of an era, and I hope that the new systems work as well as they think they will..... and another Titanic or Morro Castle disaster is not needed to awaken the powers that be.

I am entering the broadcasts into my computer, and will post them to the boatanchors group and maybe the rec-radio group, for the historical record when I get all the input therein.....

p.s. Thanks USCG CAMSLANT NMN Chesapeake for allowing me and my friends to attend this historical event...

73 de NA4G, ``Boat Anchor Bob'', an ol' CW fart

Morse has been in the family for over 100 years.....
Morse radiotelegraphy (Spark/CW) has been in the family since 1914.....

End of Ham-Policy Digest V93 #289
